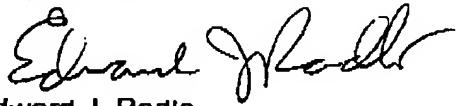


REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 43-56 were active in this patent application. Applicants are hereby amending claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, 16, 17, 44, and 47; and canceling claims 43, 46, and 49-56. Support for all amendments is found in the application as originally filed. Reconsideration of this application as amended, and allowance of all claims remaining herein, claims 1-18, 44, 45, 47, and 48 as amended, are hereby respectfully requested.

In the telephone interview conducted between Examiner Bashore and the undersigned on February 10, 2006, the claims were discussed, agreement was reached regarding the claims, and Examiner Bashore and the undersigned concluded that the present claim amendments will place this application into condition for allowance. Therefore, an early Notice of Allowance covering all claims remaining herein, claims 1-18, 44, 45, 47, and 48 as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward J. Radio
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 26,793
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SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P. O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(415) 882-2402

cc: A. Gladje (via e-mail)
IPT docket CH